

I am in strong support of FCC waiving its rule requiring Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) to cost-allocate out of its E-Rate funding any off-campus use if its fiber ring in order to provide internet access to BVSD students living in low-income housing communities.

This change would allow students to access broadband at their subsidized low-income housing sites, including in their homes, community centers and computer labs. Housing providers, such as Boulder Housing Partners, have partnerships with community-based education providers to assist students with their school work at home to help close the achievement and opportunity gaps. We also offer summer learning programs at our community centers to stop the “summer slide,” which is the tendency for students to forget what they learned during the school year. Children who experience the summer slide can lose up to two months of reading achievement, meaning that by 6th grade, they can be up to two years behind their classmates. Internet access is vital to the success of educational programs and to the success of children living in low-income housing.

There are 5 million student households nationwide that lack access to high-speed internet; this has a profound and negative effect on some of our country’s most vulnerable students. I hope the FCC supports digital equity and allows BVSD to increase student access to the internet.